

thrown together by the British for their administrative convenience, a vestige of the colonial era. The Soviet experience showed how difficult it is to keep such a multinational state together.

Unfortunately, instead of listening to the demands of the people, India has responded by stepping up the oppression of its minorities. Instead of listening to the people, the Indian government has killed more than 250,000 Sikhs since 1984, over 75,000 Muslims in Kashmir since 1988, over 200,000 Christians in Nagaland since 1947, and tens of thousands of other minorities. India was caught by the Movement Against State Repression admitting that it held over 52,000 Sikh political prisoners under the so-called "Terrorist and Disruptive Activities Act," known as TADA, which is one of the most repressive laws in the world. TADA expired in 1995. India also holds political prisoners of other minorities, according to Amnesty International. In 1994 the State Department reported that the Indian government paid more than 41,000 cash bounties to police officers for killing Sikhs.

Recently in a village in Kashmir, Indian soldiers were caught red-handed in the act of trying to set fire to a Sikh temple, known as a Gurdwara, and some Sikh homes. This appears to have been aimed at setting the Sikh and Muslim residents against each other. Village residents, both Sikh and Muslim, came out and intervened to stop the soldiers from carrying out this nefarious plan.

Unfortunately, this is only one recent chapter in an ongoing saga of repression of minorities and denial of basic human rights in "the world's largest democracy." In India, minorities have seen the destruction of the Muslims' most revered mosque to build a Hindu temple, the burning death of a missionary and his two sons while they slept in their jeep followed by an effort to expel his widow from the country, church burnings, the murder of priests, the rape of nuns, attacks on schools and prayer halls, the massacre of 35 Sikhs in the village of Chithisinghpura, a recent attack on a train carrying Sikh religious pilgrims, troops attacking a crowd of religious pilgrims with lathis, police breaking up a religious festival with gunfire, and many other such intolerant acts.

In November 1994 the Indian newspaper *Hitavada* reported that the Indian government paid Surendra Nath, then the governor of Punjab, the equivalent of \$1.5 billion to generate terrorist activity in Punjab and in Kashmir. In India, half the population lives below the international poverty line. About 40 percent lives on less than \$2 per day. Yet they could find \$1.5 billion to pay a government official to generate and support terrorism. We have programs in our government that don't cost \$1.5 billion. This is not a small amount of money.

Mr. Speaker, India has been caught red-handed engaging in domestic terrorism against its minorities. This is why they are seeking their own states. This is why there are 17 freedom movements within India's artificial, colonial-era borders. The minorities are looking for any means of protection against the brutal Indian state.

America is the beacon of freedom, and as an old song from the 70s said, "you can't be a beacon if your light don't shine." We must do what we can to shine the light of freedom

on all the people of south Asia. We can do this by maintaining the existing sanctions against India, by stopping our aid to India until it stops denying basic human rights that are the cornerstone of real democracies, and by supporting self-determination for the peoples of South Asia in the form of a free and fair plebiscite on their political status. By these measures, we can help bring freedom, security, stability, and prosperity to the subcontinent and bring America new allies and new influence in this dangerous region.

#### HONORING NANCY MACCONNELL

### HON. GEORGE RADANOVICH

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, July 11, 2001*

Mr. RADANOVICH. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor a great wife, mother, sister, aunt, grandmother, great grandmother and friend. Eighty years ago this Saturday, July 14th, Nancy Leigh MacConnell, was born in Globe, Arizona, eldest daughter of Elijah and Alta Phillips.

Nancy is also a treasure to one and all. She has brought great joy to all her family including her beloved sisters Joan and Sidney and her late husband Michale MacConnell, Jr.

Nancy is the mother of three; Suzanne Du Pree, Michele King and Michale, the grandmother of ten and the great grandmother of thirteen. And all firmly believe she has the patience of Job and is the greatest mom there ever was.

I rise today to celebrate and honor Nancy MacConnell's 80th birthday and wish her as much and love and joy in the next 80.

#### SUPPORTING A COMMEMORATIVE STAMP FOR THE HONORABLE ADAM CLAYTON POWELL, JR.

### HON. CHARLES B. RANGEL

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, July 11, 2001*

Mr. RANGEL. Mr. Speaker, I rise to urge my colleagues to support House Concurrent Resolution 182, which recommends a long overdue commemorative stamp for a lawmaker, civil rights advocate and American statesman whose achievements continue to resonate.

Congressman Adam Clayton Powell, Jr. remains one of the greatest and most effective legislators in the history of the U.S. Congress. When he was first elected to Congress in 1945, he was one of only two African-American members, and became the first of his race to chair the powerful Committee on Education and Labor from 1961 to 1967.

As Chairman, he spearheaded the legislation that authorized the Medicare, Medicaid, Head Start and school lunch programs, increased the minimum wage and established student loan programs. Chairman Powell also pushed through the landmark Civil Rights Act of 1964, finally codifying his famous "Powell Amendment"; a rider that would deny federal dollars to institutions who practice racial dis-

crimination, which he had introduced repeatedly for years.

Congressman Powell was a pioneer among lawmakers whose legacy continues to inspire countless generations of Americans of all backgrounds, colors, creeds and religions to take part in this grand experiment we call "representative government".

I respectfully urge my colleagues to join me and cosponsor H. Con. Res. 182 to celebrate a lawmaker whose accomplishments are among the greatest examples of perseverance and triumph in our democratic system.

#### IN RECOGNITION OF EDUCATOR LARRY RATTO

### HON. FORTNEY PETE STARK

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, July 11, 2001*

Mr. STARK. Mr. Speaker, I would like to pay tribute to a legendary educator in my congressional district who retired on June 30, 2001 after an illustrious thirty-six year career filled with memorable contributions to the Hayward, California school district.

A native of Alameda, California, Larry began his career in 1965, when he worked as a history/government teacher and counselor at Mt. Eden High School. Four years later, he became an administrator at Tennyson High School where he took the reins and lead with vigor and creativity.

He stood on hot coals more than once for a good five to ten minutes during pep talks to student leaders at their annual weekend retreat.

Many recall the time in 1970 when Larry rode a galloping horse between the Tennyson High School buildings to chase down a truant student—a legendary story that people still talk about three decades later.

In 1971, Larry became vice principal at Hayward High School and five years later he led as principal of Sunset High School until it closed in 1990. He returned to the 1,900-student Hayward High School as principal, the last position he held before his retirement.

"You got to have some pizzazz," Larry said, while wrapping up his final days as a public school administrator. "You are competing with the MTV culture." Larry describes his career as "fun." He said, "There were days when it was not fun and hours that I thought, 'Why am I doing this?'"

Having once considered being a lawyer, Larry enjoyed the excitement of a high school principal's life, that every day was different. He is proud of Hayward High School and its wide class offerings and plethora of extracurricular student activities.

Parents, teachers, students, administrators and community leaders express great admiration for Larry Ratto's three decades of outstanding leadership in education as well as his exemplary involvement in community activities. I ask my colleagues to join me in paying tribute to this colorful, legendary educator, and community leader.